

**COMMISSION ON TEACHER CREDENTIALING**

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*OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

## **BULLETIN**

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### **Commission Implements Bill to Streamline Credentialing for Out-of-State Teachers**

Governor Davis has signed legislation that will make it much easier for teachers and administrators prepared in other states to obtain a California credential. Co-authored by Assemblyman Jack Scott (D-Pasadena) and Senator Jack O'Connell (D-Santa Barbara), AB 877 will allow California credentials to be awarded to teachers and administrators who have met equivalent requirements in another state. The measure was sponsored by the Commission on Teacher Credentialing, the state agency that licenses teachers.

AB 877 will make the recruitment and certification of teachers prepared in other states clearer, simpler and less expensive. Under this new law, credentialed teachers from other states will no longer have to complete duplicative credential requirements. California will no longer have to depend on the actions of other states and will be able to make its own determination of equivalence.

Before this new law, California would have to offer to enter into a reciprocity agreement with another state. Reciprocity was allowed only if all licensing standards met California's standards. Some states were unwilling to enter into these agreements or even send information for California to review. Under the new law, California can determine that some or most of the credential requirements in teacher preparation, subject matter and reading are met. A teacher will only have to complete the particular requirement that has not already been met.

Out-of-state prepared educators will still have their fingerprints checked by the California Department of Justice and the Federal Bureau of Investigation and will need to pass the California Basic Educational Skills Test or CBEST. The requirements for training in the use of computers and how to work with special education students in regular settings will be deemed met, as long as the teacher has completed comparable training in another state. For the first time, the Commission will have the authority to allow out of state teachers prepared to work with English learners to receive a credential based on equivalency.

Under this new law school administrators who were prepared at an accredited college or university, and who have three years of successful experience, will qualify for a professional clear administrator credential. Administrators with less than three years of

experience can obtain a clear administrator credential by completing a state-approved program of mentoring and support.

An urgency bill, AB 877 will go into effect immediately.